

FIRST RESPONDER MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**AMENDMENTS**

2022 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill creates a grant program for mental health resources for first responders.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ requires all first responder agencies to provide mental health resources for employees, spouses, children, and retirees;
- ▶ provides for the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health to administer a grant program to provide mental health resources; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2023:

- ▶ to Department of Human Services -- Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Community Mental Health Services, as a one-time appropriation:
 - from the General Fund, One-time, \$5,000,000.

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

63I-2-262, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapters 156, 204, and 278

ENACTS:

53-20-101, Utah Code Annotated 1953

53-20-102, Utah Code Annotated 1953

53-20-103, Utah Code Annotated 1953

53-20-104, Utah Code Annotated 1953

REPEALS:

62A-15-120, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 156

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53-20-101** is enacted to read:

53-20-101. Title.

This chapter is known as Mental Health Resources for First Responders.

Section 2. Section **53-20-102** is enacted to read:

53-20-102. Definitions.

(1) As used in this chapter:

(a) "Division" means the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health created in

Section 62A-15-103.

(b) "First responder" means:

(i) a law enforcement officer, as defined in Section 53-13-103;

(ii) an emergency medical technician, as defined in Section 26-8c-102;

(iii) an advanced emergency medical technician, as defined in Section 26-8c-102;

(iv) a paramedic, as defined in Section 26-8c-102;

(v) a firefighter, as defined in Section 34A-3-113;

(vi) a dispatcher, as defined in Section 53-6-102;

(vii) a correctional officer, as defined in Section 53-13-104; or

(viii) a search and rescue worker under the supervision of a local sheriff.

(c) "First responder agency" means a local district, municipality, interlocal entity, or other political subdivision that employs a first responder to provide fire protection, paramedic, law enforcement, or emergency services.

(d) "Mental health resources" means:

(i) an assessment to determine appropriate mental health treatment that is performed by a mental health therapist;

(ii) outpatient mental health treatment provided by a mental health therapist; or

(iii) peer support services provided by a peer support specialist who is qualified to provide peer support services under Subsection 62A-15-103(2)(h).

(e) "Mental health therapist" means the same as that term is defined in Section

63 58-60-102.

64 (f) "Plan" means a plan to implement or expand a program that provides mental health
65 resources to first responders for which the division awards a grant under this chapter.

66 Section 3. Section **53-20-103** is enacted to read:

67 **53-20-103. Mental health services -- Requirement to provide --- Confidentiality.**

68 (1) Every first responder agency within the state shall provide or make available mental
69 health resources to all employees, the spouse and children of employees, and persons who have
70 retired from the agency.

71 (2) All access by first responders and their families to mental health resources shall be
72 kept confidential.

73 Section 4. Section **53-20-104** is enacted to read:

74 **53-20-104. Grants to first responder agencies.**

75 (1) The division shall issue a request for proposal in accordance with this chapter to
76 award grants to first responder agencies to provide mental health resources.

77 (2) The request for proposal shall require mental health providers contracted or
78 employed by the first responder agency to have training and experience in working with first
79 responders and provide, at a minimum, the following services:

80 (a) regular periodic screenings for all employees within the first responder agency;

81 (b) assessments or debriefings for personnel involved in a critical incident within 12
82 hours of the incident; and

83 (c) access to the mental health program for:

84 (i) spouses and children of first responders; and

85 (ii) first responders who have retired from the agency.

86 (3) An application from a first responder agency for a grant under this chapter shall
87 provide the following details:

88 (a) a proposed plan to provide mental health resources to first responders in the first
89 responder agency;

90 (b) the number of first responders to be served by the proposed plan;

91 (c) how the proposed plan will ensure timely and effective provision of mental health
92 resources to first responders in the first responder agency;

93 (d) the cost of the proposed plan; and

(e) the sustainability of the proposed plan.

(5) In evaluating a project proposal for a grant under this section, the division shall consider:

(a) the extent to which the first responders that will be served by the proposed plan are likely to benefit from the proposed plan;

(b) the cost of the proposed plan; and

(c) the viability of the proposed plan.

Section 5. Section **63I-2-262** is amended to read:

63I-2-262. Repeal dates -- Title 62A.

(1) Subsection 62A-5-103.1(6) is repealed January 1, 2023.

~~[(2) Section 62A-15-120 is repealed January 1, 2025.]~~

~~[(3)]~~ (2) Section 62A-15-122 is repealed January 2, 2025

~~[(4)]~~ (3) Title 62A, Chapter 15, Part 19, Mental Health Crisis Intervention Council, is repealed January 1, 2023.

Section 6. **Repealer.**

This bill repeals:

Section **62A-15-120, Mental health resources for first responders grant program.**

Section 7. **Appropriation.**

The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for fiscal year 2023. Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, the Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts indicated for the use and support of the government of the state of Utah. 1

ITEM 1

To Department of Human Services -- Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

From General Fund, One-time \$5,000,000

Schedule of Programs:

Community Mental Health Services \$5,000,000

The Legislature intends that:

(1) the appropriation under this item be used to award grants under Title 53, Chapter 20, Mental Health Resources for First Responders; and

125 (2) under Section 63J-1-603, the one-time appropriation provided under this item not
126 lapse at the close of fiscal year 2023 and the use of any nonlapsing funds is limited to the
127 purposes described in Subsection (1) of this item.